

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A RACE OF THE MEXICAN VOLE,  
*MICROTUS MEXICANUS*, FROM  
SOUTHEASTERN UTAH.

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In the summer of 1933 the writer and Emma Dennis Benson were invited by Miss Annie M. Alexander to accompany her and Miss Louise Kellogg on a collecting trip to Navajo Mountain, Utah. This field trip was planned to fulfill a desire, long held by Miss Alexander, to determine the constituents of the vertebrate fauna of that isolated mountain. Among the results obtained was the discovery that the Mexican vole inhabiting Navajo Mountain differs from any of the races heretofore described. It may be known as:

***Microtus mexicanus navaho*, new subspecies.**

*Type*.—Adult male, skin and skull, no. 58817 Mus. Vert. Zool.; from Soldier Spring, about 8800 feet altitude, east slope of Navajo Mountain, San Juan County, Utah; collected June 17, 1933, by Seth B. Benson; original number 2155.

*Distribution*.—Known only from Navajo Mountain, in southeastern Utah and northeastern Arizona.

*Diagnosis*.—A race of *Microtus mexicanus* (Saussure) characterized by small size and pale (grayish) coloration. Hairs of back with plumbeous bases, some black-tipped, most tipped with pinkish buff. Hairs of lower surface tipped with white. Skull with short braincase, heavy rostrum. Nasals flaring widely anteriorly.

*Comparisons*.—Compared with *Microtus mexicanus mogollonensis* (Mearns), represented by 34 topotypes: Size equal; hairs of back tipped with pinkish buff rather than cinnamon brown; hairs of ventral surface white-tipped rather than buffy-tipped; skull similar in most details, but, on the average, braincase shorter, rostrum heavier, nasals wider anteriorly.

*Measurements*.—Average, minimum and maximum measurements in millimeters of 10 adult males (when measurements are not available for all

ten specimens the number measured is indicated in parenthesis): Total length, 133 (122-138); length of tail vertebrae, 29 (24-33); length of hind foot, 19 (18-19); height of ear from notch, 13 (12-14); weight (5), 30.5 grams (28.6-31.8); length of head and body, 104 (95-113); condylobasal length (8), 25.5 (24.2-26.1); length of nasals, 7.0 (6.8-7.3); greatest zygomatic breadth (8), 14.6 (13.8-15.1); width of interparietal (9), 7.9 (7.5-8.5); lambdoidal width (9), 11.7 (11.2-12.1); alveolar length of maxillary toothrow 6.5 (6.3-6.7); least interorbital breadth (9), 3.4 (3.1-3.9). Measurements of 8 adult females: Total length, 134 (130-141); length of tail vertebrae, 28 (25-34); length of hind foot, 19 (18-20); height of ear from notch (7), 13 (11-14); length of head and body, 106 (101-108); weight (4), 33.8 grams (30.0-37.0); condylobasal length (6), 25.5 (25.0-26.2); length of nasals (7), 7.3 (7.0-7.7); greatest zygomatic breadth (7), 14.8 (14.3-15.4); width of interparietal (7), 8.3 (7.7-8.8); lambdoidal width (6), 11.6 (11.3-12.0); alveolar length of maxillary toothrow, 6.6 (6.3-7.1); least interorbital breadth (7), 3.5 (3.2-3.8).

*Specimens examined.*—Total number, 33, all from Navajo Mountain, San Juan County, Utah, as follows: War God Spring, 8400 feet altitude, 29; Soldier Spring, about 8800 feet altitude, 4.